

# Tracker Talk



January 2006

Vol. 5, No. 1

## PIV Marks 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday



*Tracker was ready to party at PIV's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration during the October 21, 2005 meeting. Pictured above are Old Dominion University Nursing Students Jennifer Gelardos, Lindsey Kopf, Agnes Agustin, and Bonnie Skopal (aka Tracker).*

Project Immunize Virginia commemorated its first decade of accomplishments during the October 21<sup>st</sup> general membership meeting at the American Lung Association of Virginia. A slide show highlighting PIV's major events and programs over the past 10 years was presented. PIV has the unique distinction of being one of only two immunization coalitions in the country that are supported by their state's immunization program. Jim Farrell recalled that prior to PIV he never had a positive experience with coalitions and then went on the record as saying that PIV is the best investment he ever made.

PIV owes its success to the work of all of the dedicated, diverse and creative members through the years. 2006 is on track to being another productive year promoting timely immunizations across the lifespan. In fact, Oprah Winfrey may have had PIV in mind when she said "When I look into the future, it's so bright it burns my eyes."



## Call for Abstracts for 7<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Immunization Coalitions

The 7<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Immunization Coalitions will take place August 9-11, 2006 at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center. It is hosted by the Colorado Influenza and Pneumococcal Alert Coalition. The conference offers training on how to create, lead, and sustain effective coalitions for ALL health related issues. It provides participants with examples of field-tested programs, which can be implemented in their own communities and the opportunity to network with professionals who have designed and implemented those successful programs. This year's conference theme, *On Higher Ground*, will address coalitions as agents of social change, the elements of a successful coalition, and social and ethnic diversity in public health initiatives.

Abstracts are being sought in the following topic areas: Partnerships and Collaborations; Social Marketing/Health Education; Fundraising; Media and Public Policy Advocacy; Event Planning; Cultural Competency; Evaluation; New Vaccines; Immunization Registries; Pandemic Influenza Planning and Response; Vaccine Safety; Vaccine Supply and Delivery Challenges; and Provider Relations. Abstract applications must be received electronically, no later than February 28, 2006.

To submit an abstract online, go to:

<http://www.seeuthere.com/survey/m2c666-163085121572>

## Mark Your Calendars for 2006

- ☑ PIV Quarterly Meetings – January 20, April 7; July 14; October 6
- ☑ 40<sup>th</sup> National Immunization Conference – March 6-9, Atlanta, GA
- ☑ National Infant Immunization Week – April 22-29
- ☑ Hepatitis Awareness Month – May
- ☑ National Adolescent Immunization Awareness Week – June 4-10
- ☑ National Immunization Awareness Month – August
- ☑ 7<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Immunization Coalitions – August 9-11, Denver, CO
- ☑ National Adult Immunization Awareness Week – September 24-30



## Childhood & Adolescent Immunization Schedule Revised for 2006

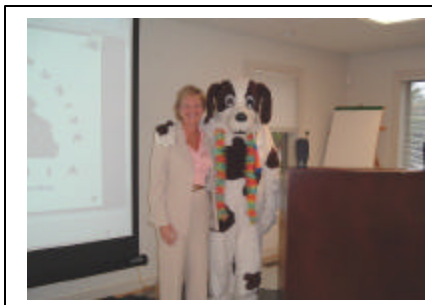
The CDC, AAP, and AAFP have released the 2006 U.S. Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule. Some of the changes to the previous childhood and adolescent immunization schedule, published in January 2005, are as follows:

- The importance of the hepatitis B vaccine (HepB) birth dose has been emphasized.
- Tdap is recommended for adolescents aged 11-12 years who have completed the recommended childhood diphtheria and (DTP/DTaP) vaccination series and have not received a tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td) booster dose.
- Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), should be administered to all children at age 11-12 years as well as to unvaccinated adolescents at high school entry (age 15 years).
- Influenza vaccine is now recommended for children aged 6 months and older with certain risk factors
- Hepatitis A vaccine is now universally recommended for all children at age 1 year (12-23 months).
- The catch-up schedule for persons aged 7-18 years has been changed for Td.

To access a ready-to-print (PDF) version of a two-page 2006 schedule, go to:

[http://www.aafp.org/PreBuilt/immunization\\_child2006\\_engl.pdf](http://www.aafp.org/PreBuilt/immunization_child2006_engl.pdf)

*From the IAC Express #574*



*Tracker and  
Fran Butterfoss  
celebrate PIV's  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

### New Leadership for 2006

**PIV Chair:** Ed Arnsdorff, GlaxoSmithKline

**PIV Vice Chair:** Deborah Bundy-Carpenter, Central Shenandoah Health District

**Childhood Workgroup:**

Chair: Alfreda Brown, Chesterfield Health District

Vice Chair: Sylvia Newport, Rappahannock Health District

**Adolescent Workgroup:**

Chair: Kim Spruill, Virginia Pharmacists Association Foundation

Vice Chair: Laura Newell, GlaxoSmithKline

**Adult Workgroup:**

Chair: Terry Hargrove, American Lung Association of Virginia

Vice Chair: Jayne Gilbert, Chiron Vaccines

*CONGRATULATIONS NEW LEADERS!*

## An Election Day Tradition: Virginians like to Vaccinate and Vote

PIV partners once again implemented the Vaccinate and Vote program across the Commonwealth on Election Day 2005. Below is a synopsis of the results.

**Petersburg:** 289 flu shots were administered primarily to patients age 65 and older, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., at the Petersburg Health Department. Volunteers distributed 150 influenza informational flyers at 3 polling locations.

**Roanoke & Salem City:** Volunteers distributed educational materials at all polling locations in Roanoke City and most locations in Salem City. Two clinics were held from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., with a total of 1,135 flu shots administered.

**Waynesboro, Staunton & Augusta County:** Flu vaccine flyers were circulated at 35 polling sites while shot clinics were held in Staunton, Waynesboro and Verona. Although clinics were scheduled to be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. in all three locations, they all had to close early because the vaccine supply was depleted! A total of 1,211 flu shots were given.

**Richmond:** Volunteers distributed informational brochures at 7 polling locations. Vax and Vote partners administered a total of 80 flu shots at the 31<sup>st</sup> Street Baptist Church clinic. Due to supply limitations, the additional clinic scheduled was cancelled.

### Results from Rotavirus Studies Announced

The New England Journal of Medicine released results of two international vaccine studies for rotavirus on January 4, 2006.

The study found that the RotaTeq® vaccine, developed by Merck, prevented 98% of illness from severe forms of the intestinal virus. Dr. David Matson at Eastern Virginia Medical School's Center for Pediatric Research led the U.S. portion of the study. GlaxoSmithKline's vaccine showed an 85% prevention rate. Infants in the GlaxoSmithKline study were mostly from low and middle-income families in Latin America, while the Merck study's subjects were mainly from the United States and Finland.

Rotavirus usually strikes children under 5 during the winter months and causes 70,000 hospital admissions and 250,000 visits to emergency rooms in the United States per year. Worldwide, the virus annually causes 2 million hospital visits and 500,000 deaths. In poor, underdeveloped countries, prompt treatment is not always available and dehydration in babies is often fatal.

Researchers closely monitored the incidence of bowel obstruction that caused the previous vaccine to be removed from the market. Children who received RotaTeq® showed a lower incidence of the bowel obstruction than the control group.

The Food and Drug Administration advisory committee has recommended that the federal agency approve the vaccine for marketing, possibly making it available as early as this summer. The vaccine is given in 3 oral doses, 4 to 10 weeks apart.

*From a report in the Virginian-Pilot January 5, 2006*



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